THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"*Behold, the judgments of God will overtake the wicked; and it is by the wicked that the wicked are punished; for it is the wicked that stir up the hearts of the children of men unto bloodshed.*" BOOK OF MORMON, MORMON 4: 5.

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THE TRUTH WILL STAND*

ELDER MELVIN J. BALLARD

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

I DESIRE to read the following verses from the 88th section of the Doctrine and Covenants:

And again, verily I say unto you, that which is governed by law is also preserved by law and perfected and sanctified by the same.

That which breaketh a law, and abideth not by law, but seeketh to become a law unto itself, and willeth to abide in sin, and altogether abideth in sin, cannot be sanctified by law, neither by mercy, justice, nor judgment. Therefore, they must remain filthy still.

I desire to add, in connection with these inspired utterances, a word of warning and testimony in connection with that which has been borne by my brethren to the Latter-day Saints assembled in conference this morning. I am happy to find myself in full accord with all that has been expressed. But I do feel in my soul that we have reached the day spoken of by the prophets of old, and by the Lord Himself in this generation, when everthing will be shaken that can be shaken, and nothing shall remain except that which is truth and is established by the Lord. It was easy, in the dark ages, for a glimmer of truth to attract the attention of men who were in such dense darkness; but it is not easy for a glimmer of truth to attract attention in an age when the blaze of light is so resplendent as to be seen everywhere.

*From an address delivered at the fifth session of the Ninety-ninth Semi-annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A., October 7th, 1928.

More light and knowledge has come to the earth in this generation than in all ages before—and a religion that can attract the attention of men and can stand the scrutiny of investigation, and shine in the presence of light such as the world enjoys to-day, is an unusual religion. There is nothing so sacred, nor ancient, but must meet the sifting process that presently will be in operation. For it is the age when everything is being questioned. How has "Mormonism" stood? How will it stand in this period of testing? It has stood the trials of the past. It stands to-day vindicated in its teachings, even in the presence of science, learning, knowledge and history. It will stand in the future.

I recognize the foundation upon which it has been established as the truth; and how my heart grows in faith, my understanding increases, and my soul is filled with joy to witness the strength and power of this Church, even in this age of doubt and of uncertainty.

A spirit of doubt and uncertainty is creeping over the faith of the world. We were told in an address by an eminent minister at a gathering of religionists in California, during this last summer, that sixty per cent. of the people of the United States have no religious affiliation; that twenty-five million young people in the United States are growing up without any religious teaching.

I confess to you that it is also a time when institutions that God established, that are political, will be shaken; but, thank the Lord, they will stand, for they, too, are the truth.

. . . .

THE ATTITUDE OF THE CHURCH

The Latter-day Saints have taken a very definite stand in reference to their attitude towards the government, and towards the great problems of life. Have we had to shift our position? Has it been assailed successfully? When we have declared our loyalty and patriotism to the Constitution and the Government, and that we recognize that the duty of the Saints is to uphold and support the laws of the land as faithfully as they do the laws of the Church, were we right? Any people who depart from that will not be able to preserve a civilization very long.

Are we right in the promulgation of the doctrine that we have advocated of the single standard of virtue, wherein we require the young man of our Church to be as clean and as pure as the girl he asks to be his wife, the mother of his children? Are we right in our conception of marriage for time and for eternity? Have we had to recede from that position? In the building of this family relationship, of which we have heard, forever and forever, we stand upon solid ground and cannot be shaken from it. In the glorious conception we have of the redemption of our dead, extending to those who died and passed beyond the veil

without opportunity, that through the vicarious work God has established in His Church, these holy blessings may come to them—are we right? Have we had to recede from that position?

In the promulgation of the doctrine of the law of tithing, wherein each man is placed under a certain obligation to the Lord to pay his tenth, whether he be rich or whether he be poor, are we right? Have we had to recede from that position? No; men are growing in numbers who acknowledge the righteousness of the plan. Are we right in our missionary system that calls forth these thousands of young men and women who freely give themselves and pay their way to go to the ends of the world to preach this Gospel? Are we right or are we wrong? We know we are right. The principle has been acknowledged as the finest plan by which the Gospel message may be carried to the children of men.

FOUNDATION OF "MORMONISM" WILL STAND ANY TEST

Recently an eminent professor said to the General Board of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations, in discussing the question of the ills of modern youth: "The 'Mormon' Church is founded and established very well—better than any other institution in the world—and has opportunities to hold its young people, for you give them something to fight for. You put a responsibility upon them and send them forth to champion a cause. You will hold them as long as you have something worth fighting for." And we have.

I could go through each principle of the Gospel that has been revealed to us and show, I am sure, my brethren and sisters, that the attitude of the leaders of this Church affecting the lives of the people as to the solution of the great problems of this age is right, and that each principle is right.

I do not fear all the tests that are before us. I have recognized now for some time past that a new test is coming to the Saints—the test of peace and of prosperity. The most severe test that has ever come to any people is the test of peace and prosperity. Having survived the troubles of the past, I am as sure as I live that this Church, the great majority of this people, will stand the test of peace and of prosperity. Though many may fall, though many may hesitate and falter, this work is established to stand forever, and never to fail. It is founded upon the truth.

Who wants to hesitate now? Who wants to desert the ranks in such a glorious cause which is presently to be triumphant and victorious? There never has been an age in all the glorious past when there was such an opportunity for the truth as to-day. This age of questioning is all in favour of truth. Let error vanish, let superstition and ignorance go; it is the age when the truth shall be triumphant. Those who know the truth have reason to take courage and to be affiliated with those who are the

champions of truth, for it is the age of truth's victory. It will come. Yes; not only shall the doctrines and the theories of men be shaken; but the very earth itself. This is the age when it too is to be shaken; and this was all understood by the Master who built the earth, the Lord Jesus Christ. Worlds without number He has made, and He knows how they will behave, and when they will misbehave; He knows the period of the earth's convulsions. Whatever may be the cause of our present unusual storms, cyclones and disturbances, whether they are caused by sun spots or what not—He who made this world knew when would come the period of its misbehaviour, as accurately as the astronomer can forecast the coming of an eclipse. And He knew that this disturbance bore a certain relationship to other great and important events; namely, His coming to dwell among men in the flesh.

I bear witness to you that God is speaking in the interest of truth and in the interest of the establishment of His work, even by the very elements. And He will speak in an effort to cause men in their mad rush for pleasure to stop, to ponder, to ask themselves whether or not God is in the affairs of men. Many men will repent; may they save themselves by accepting the principles of the Gospel. God Himself cannot save them, only as they comply with the rules of eternal truth. If they disregard them, they put themselves beyond His power. He can do nothing for them.

GOD'S PROMISES TO BE REALIZED

I bear witness that I know, as I know I live, that this is God's work and that Jesus Christ did visit the earth. I know that He did speak to the Prophet Joseph Smith, that the Book of Mormon is the very truth, and that "Mormonism" is indeed God's work, founded and established to endure. Let us go home and kindle the fire, where it is burning low, in the hearts of the wayward, the careless and the indifferent. There is only one protection for us; and that is to keep the commandments of God. If we will do that I will tell you that the period now before us will be full of blessings, full of promise, full of hope and full of glory for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I know that the glorious future is more wonderful than all the past. It is a time for men and women to rededicate themselves to God and His service—not to be tired nor weary in well doing. The future is so full of promise; the realization of all that has been promised in the revelations of the Lord to His servants will be realized. I am more grateful than I can express this day, for my standing in this Church, in this glorious work. God speed it forward and keep us in its ranks, that we and our children may be counted with the victorious in that day of triumph which is to come. God speed that day, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE SPREADING OF TRUTH IN THE EARTH*

ELDER CHARLES H. HYDE
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN MISSION

IT HAS BEEN more than four and a half years since I listened to our wonderful choir and partook of the influence of these services. I have been engaged in missionary labour in far-off Australia for that length of time. I have read with considerable interest of the growth and development of the work at home, and I have rejoiced greatly in the interest manifested by the Saints and Elders in Australia.

. . . .

Australia is a good country in which to do missionary work. Our greatest difficulty there is the lack of missionaries; and of course, this same condition prevails pretty much in all the missions of the Church; but we have tried to be satisfied with the quota of missionaries that the Presidency of the Church were able to send us, and to do the best we could.

During my experience there, we have built four new chapels and bought a mission home, so that the new mission president who has just gone out there, will find a nice, convenient home for himself and his family. The additions in the Church buildings are very commendable, and especially the little church that was built in Perth, West Australia. There are, I think, less than one hundred Saints living there, but they went to work with all their might and built a splendid little brick chapel. It was dedicated as soon as finished, because it was paid for.

A MARVELOUS ACCOMPLISHMENT

It has been a miracle to me how that small congregation was able to accomplish so wonderful a work. We have but four Elders labouring in West Australia, covering a population of something over half a million. There must be at least three hundred thousand people in Perth. We cannot reach them all. We are not permitted to speak over the radios, as they are usually occupied by the dominant churches of Australia, and up to the present time, we have not had this privilege. I am sure, however, that when the time comes when we can speak over the radio, we will reach a great many people who at the present time know little of us as a people. In the past, however, we have been able to remove some of the prejudice against us, and have received a number of splendid grants from the Federal Government of Australia, and in some cases from the state governments. As the years roll by, we will be able to accomplish a more wonderful work among that splendid people.

*From an address delivered in the Tabernacle, at Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A., on Sunday, January 27th, 1929.

It should be understood that the population of Australia is almost entirely English. There are some Italians and Greeks in the country, but the predominant population is of English descent, so that our labours are made more or less easy in communicating with the people at their doors or upon the street corners, or wherever opportunity might offer, to declare unto them the message of life.

I have found, possibly as you have, that at the present time there is a very great lack of faith in the Holy Scriptures creeping into the world. Possibly many of you have read in the English papers of recent date, of one of the higher prelates of the Church of England, who has told his people that the book of Genesis is simply folk lore, and that it is not necessary for them to believe in it to any great extent.

. . . .

As a people we declare that we believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly. I have not discovered many translations in the Bible that are not correct, so I have found little difficulty in accepting Genesis as the word of the Lord to Moses. Of course, we know that Moses did not write it from his own experiences, but he did write it through the revelations of God to him, for God made known to him the things which occurred in the beginning. It was a revelation to him, and he wrote it under the spirit of revelation from God which came upon him; we will find it in the Pearl of Great Price. We accept the revelations of God given to holy men of olden time, just as we accept the revelations of God to man in this dispensation.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE PROPHETS

The Bible is a wonderful, divine record; and it has been divinely preserved from the earliest experiences of men to the present time. Jesus said to His disciples: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me"; and He Himself referred to the books of Moses and accepted them.

. . . .

If the people hear not Moses and the prophets, they will not hear one though he raise from the dead. It is for this purpose that these scriptures have been preserved through the history of this world, that men might have a knowledge of God, and that they might conform their lives to the revelations of God and keep themselves close to the Father, that they might inherit eternal life and escape the judgments which come to those who are disobedient. As you travel in the world, you find all classes of people, different nations, and you wonder why this is so. You will find among these different nations of people some fragments of truth, and as you present the Gospel of Christ to them they will say to you: "O, we have that too"; and you can go down to

the lowest grades of nations, and find some fragments of truth which God revealed to earlier dispensations.

We read that in the beginning there was disobedience from the time of Cain down to the present time, and that the sons of God married the daughters of men, which displeased the Lord; and these people wandered away into different parts of the earth, but carried with them divine truths which had been revealed to their fathers, and from these truths they organized their governments, or their religious organizations, incorporating within them certain truths of the Gospel. But inasmuch as they had been disobedient to God, and served Satan more than God, they incorporated also, a lot of things that were untrue.

You will find, in reading the history of the Chaldeans, at the time Abraham was called out from among them (Pearl of Great Price, page 29), that they presumed to offer certain sacrifices to their God, usually human sacrifice; and they selected the best and purest men or women for those sacrifices. This idea, of course, crept out of the original idea revealed of God to Adam, that sacrifice should be offered; but God specified the sacrifice. While it should be in commemoration of the great sacrifice which was yet to be made, the apostate peoples of the world thought that they could do one better, and therefore instituted human sacrifice, which was intensely objectionable to God. Therefore, God took Abraham from out of the midst of the Chaldeans and began a new generation of faithful people, and to him revealed anew the law of sacrifice and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In Abraham and in his seed the promise was made that all nations of the earth should be blessed.

BLESSINGS GIVEN THOSE WHO OBEY THE COMMANDMENTS

As we follow that people, even down to the present time, we find that they have been instruments in the hands of God, of maintaining the truth which God delivered in the beginning to Adam, and the peoples of the earth who have lived nearest to those revelations which came through Israel, have been the most highly civilized nations of the earth; while those who have been the most rebellious and disobedient have become the lowest among the civilized nations. I believe to-day that the Ten Commandments are among the most important things that the people of the world should know and understand and live; and as all people live them, they come nearer to God, and place themselves in a position to receive the revelations of God.

(*Continued on page 171*)

GOD IS TO BE OUR FATHER, yet we are far from being fathers to our own children. We presume to have insight into divine things, and yet we neglect as unworthy of notice those human relations which are a key to the divine.—FRIEDRICH FROEBEL.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1929

EDITORIAL

ONE PATH TO PROSPERITY

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION is Europe's chief concern. The best and most altruistic thought is employed, and new laws, new industrial combinations and new governments are devised, to improve present conditions. Yet, human suffering for want of food, clothing and shelter is indescribable and does not seem to decrease. The requirement made of pawnbrokers, during the recent cold spell, to return blankets held as security for loans, only reflected the horrid struggle for existence to which millions of people are subjected.

Improvement of present economic conditions implies many reforms. Human energy wisely used and the results properly distributed would provide the necessary physical comforts for all; but established systems, traditional ways of life and flabby human wills make desirable changes slow of accomplishment. Present-day leaders must raise their eyes to the future and proceed to their new tasks with undaunted courage. Some of the paths to prosperity are clearly marked, as for example, that there can be no real economic progress if the fruits of industry are wasted on useless or harmful things. Human gains must be made to serve human needs. Poverty and disease often result from the misuse of the gifts of earth.

Such thoughts were in mind as I asked the courteous gentleman in His Majesty's Stationery Office, on Kingsway, London, for the latest customs and excise report, that of 1927. And, indeed, the report was enlightening. During the year each person (man woman and child) in Great Britain consumed in round figures, one pound of coffee, nine pounds of tea, three pounds of tobacco, two-thirds of a gallon of spirits and wine, and seventeen gallons of beer. It seemed a high consumption, since children form a large part of the population. But of foremost interest, how much money was paid out by the people for these useless and harmful articles, money that should have been used for inviting personal and national prosperity?

A good woman who had served for many years in public houses gave me the prices charged there, and from several large commercial firms similar retail prices were secured. When the computations were made, the total was staggering. Using the lowest figures, it was found that a British population of about 45,000,000 paid out in 1927, for spirits, £55,021,000; wine, £20,144,000;

beer, £384,980,000; tobacco, £108,407,000; coffee, £4,724,000; tea, £50,388,000; total, £623,664,000.

That is, for these useless substances there was expended more than £2,000,000 for every working day in the year, or just a little less than £14 during the year for every man, woman and child. It needs no expert economist to conclude that if this sum were divided among the employees of the industries represented and the poor of Great Britain, there would be no acute suffering from the want of the necessities of life. And, if this sum were put annually into productive enterprises, for the employment of the unemployed, a new sun of well-being would glorify the British Isles.

Moreover, and not least, all of the above substances are injurious to the human body. Their use weakens the power of sane enjoyment as ordained by nature, and often invites disease and shortens life. Harmless beverages, of little cost, may be used by those who in this bracing climate feel the need of an occasional warm drink. No equivalent for tobacco is needed by a healthy person.

The Word of Wisdom, which among other things teaches abstinence from coffee, tea, tobacco and all alcoholic beverages, was given by the Lord to Joseph Smith, nearly one hundred years ago. Physiology and economics have demonstrated since then the soundness of the teachings of the Word of Wisdom. It is offered to the world not merely as a command of the Lord, but as one way by which economic welfare may be attained in any age and in every land.—W.

PERSONAL GREETING

[The following letter from Sister Robison will be of much interest to all who love their mother-country. It makes her seem very near to us all.—L. D. W.]

My Dear Sister Widtsoe:

Your dear letter of November 21st, 1928, has been read and reread many times, always with pleasure and thanksgiving for your loyalty and expressions of confidence. It is the support and encouragement of my dear sisters which lightens and brightens what would otherwise be a heavy load. The great privilege of going to our Father is, of course, the sustaining power. When responsibilities get too heavy, and I am against a stone wall, I go to the Temple, where it is remarkable how care takes wings.

I thank you for the copy of the *Millennial Star* which you so kindly sent, and I appreciate the article published over your name telling of my appointment. Next to my own United States, where I was born, is my love for England, the birthplace of my parents; my grandparents—all of them—are buried there, while many of my own kindred are living in

England. The fact that they severed all family or friendly ties because my parents believed in an unpopular religion, does not take away my interest in them. Then, too, the pleasant memories of my childhood, when my gentle mother would brighten my life, in a new, barren country, then without trees or grass, by wondrous stories of green lanes, the hedges, the fields of daisies and buttercups—all these have given me a real love for England.

Greater, even, is my gratitude to my Heavenly Father that His servants did what you and President Widtsoe and many others are now doing—taking the Gospel of the Living God to His children. I suppose you all have discouraging moments, feeling that the results of your labours come slowly, but if the gratitude of thousands of Saints, not only those who received the Gospel in foreign lands, but their children and grandchildren, can compensate for the efforts you are making, surely encouragement should take the place of discouragement.

Whenever you meet with the sisters kindly give them my love and greetings, and to you, my dear Sister Widtsoe, and President Widtsoe, very best wishes for your health, and success in your labours during the coming year.

Cordially Yours,
Louise Y. Robison
General President of the Relief Society

RADIO LECTURE IN GERMANY

Word has come from President Hyrum W. Valentine, of the German-Austrian Mission as follows:

We are pleased to report to you that we have completed arrangements whereby Elder Arthur Gaeth will give his lecture on "Utah, the Wonderland, or America, The Home of the 'Mormons,'" over the radio from Koenigsberg, on Monday, March 4th, at 6 o'clock p.m.

This will be our first experience of this kind here and we are somewhat concerned about the results.

The use of the radio by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to spread friendship, to broadcast the songs of Zion and the General Conference proceedings, to acquaint the public with the tenets of "Mormonism," is no new thing in America.

We are pleased to note that new avenues for the preaching of the Gospel and for explaining the "Mormon" message of life, are opening up in these fruitful lands. This initial step in Germany, will, we confidently hope, prove of tremendous value in taking to the radio-using public the truths of this latter-day work, and in opening up to us like channels and opportunities in all European countries.

"Mormonism" is the truth. The truth presented, can hold its own. All we need to prove our case is the opportunity. People who see, hear and read our message will convince themselves of the divinity of this work, if they will apply reason and intelligent thinking to our claims.

THE SPREADING OF TRUTH IN THE EARTH

(*Concluded from page 167*)

You will find remnants of these truths in the Australian blacks—possibly the lowest type of people upon the earth—and yet among these people are punishments for violations of the moral code. If they commit murder, they, too, must lose their lives in the atonement for that sin. If they commit adultery, they are punished; if they steal, they are punished. This prevails to a great extent among themselves. However, they do not seem to consider it much of a wrong to kill or steal from white people, but among themselves they keep and observe that law to a greater or lesser extent. No one knows their origin, or where they broke away from the higher civilization. They have not even traditions among them. So with the Fijians, and in the Solomon Islands. But you go farther east, and there you meet with a people who have not been so long away from God and His work—I speak now particularly of the Samoans, the Hawaiians, the Maoris of New Zealand—a kindred people with a kindred tradition. They can understand one another more or less, and they are ready to accept the Gospel, and a great many of them have accepted it as taught by the Latter-day Saints.

VALUABLE TESTIMONIES

It is the testimony of the officials of the governments where these people live, and under whom they are living, that the "Mormon" people have done more for this class of people than any other religious organization. Their traditions, too, reach back to the truths of the Gospel, and they are a fine-living people, especially when left by themselves; but when contaminated by some of the civilizations of to-day, they are just as apt to go astray as others. They accept the Bible readily, as it conforms to their traditions.

The Jewish people, however, are not the only people who have scripture which has been revealed from God. As you will read in the 29th chapter of 2nd Nephi, in the Book of Mormon, from the tenth verse to the end of the chapter, you will find that God told Nephi of the different people to whom He would reveal His mind and will. He said that the Gentiles should have the Bible from the Jews—and they are using it to-day—and that the Nephites should have the word of the Lord—and the Nephites, as you know, are the progenitors of the people who now live upon the American continent—and their record of God's dealings with them has come forth in this generation, known to us as the Book of Mormon. It harmonizes with the Bible in spirit and in letter, and it is by the spirit of these works that we know of their divinity. Any man or woman enjoying the Spirit of the Lord

will never say that either is a fraud or simply folk lore. It is by the spirit of truth that we know that these works are divine.

. . . . .

Then He speaks of other works that should come forth, that the Ten Tribes should have His word, and that finally all of these books should come together; that the Jews should have the words of the Nephites, and the Nephites the words of the Jews, and the others, the words of the Ten Tribes.

I believe that these books, when the final judgment comes, will be used as testimonies against those who contend against and belittle the word of the Lord.

I rejoice greatly, my brethren and sisters, in the experiences I have had in missionary work. This is my second return from Australia. We have left many friends behind, both members and non-members of the Church. It is not an easy matter to come home and leave all of these friends and Saints, and the Elders, who have reposed so great confidence in us; but I have found so many friends at home, that have encouraged us, that we realize we still have the old friends as well as the new ones left in that far-off land.

It is a blessing to our young Elders to be able to partake of the experiences they do, and to mingle with the Saints, and to speak upon the street corners. They grow in a testimony of the truth of the Gospel in a wonderfully short time, and the power of the Lord is soon manifest in their labours.

My brothers and sisters, I bear you my testimony to the divinity of this work, and to the divinity of the Holy Scriptures. As I said in the beginning, I accept all of them, from Genesis to Revelation; and I accept the Book of Mormon as being the word of God to the people of this (the American) continent; and I believe that if I may be permitted to see the records made by the Ten Tribes, that I will be able to accept them also, because I am sure they will be written by the same spirit of revelation.

May the Lord add His blessings to this great and wonderful work, I pray, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

DANISH DISTRICT PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE

A District President's Conference—the first of its kind to be held in the Danish Mission—convened in Copenhagen, from February 13th to 19th. Mission President Joseph L. Petersen, Mission Relief Society President Ida A. Petersen, President G. Philip Jensen, Copenhagen District, President L. Aage Kjolby, Aarhus District, (released), President Gunnar M. Nielsen, Aarhus District, and President Clifton E. Henrichsen, Aalborg District, were in attendance.

The purpose of the gathering was to devise ways and means for the better spreading of the Gospel during the coming year.

The conference was under the direction of Mission President Joseph L. Petersen. Many phases of missionary work were thoroughly discussed and problems solved. All in attendance were greatly benefited.

The following subjects were assigned to the district presidents and treated very thoroughly by them, after which a "round-table" discussion took place: "Tracting," "country work," "cottage meetings," "the Book of Mormon as a missionary," "visiting investigators," "open-air meetings," "budgeting our time," "visiting of Saints" and "our missionaries."

President Petersen presented to the conference many problems concerning Saints, strangers and missionaries. Recommendations and resolutions were adopted, which, if properly carried out, will result in more systematic and conscientious missionary labour. Greater efforts will be made to sweep the country with the Gospel message by more thorough tracting, more cottage meetings, more open-air gatherings; by the distribution of the Book of Mormon in homes, book stores, public libraries, newspaper offices, and so on; by urging our local Priesthood and members to perform more efficiently the work within the Priesthood and auxiliary organizations; and by preaching the Gospel both by precept and example.

We feel that the Spirit of the Lord was with us in rich abundance at this eventful gathering, and that the ideas and instruction given will help us materially in our future activities in the Danish Mission.

All the presidents reported good prospects, and are very optimistic concerning the future welfare of the mission.

G. Philip Jensen
President of the Copenhagen District

HULL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Over one hundred interested investigators increased the audiences which attended the spring conference of the Hull District, held on Sunday, March 3rd, at the Alexandra Labour Hall, Grimsby. Diligent advertizing on the part of missionaries and members during the previous week brought good results.

At the morning service a pageant: "The Restoration of the Priesthood," was effectively presented by local members. At intervals during its presentation musical numbers were sung by quartets and choruses. The subject of the pageant was the keynote of the speakers throughout the day. Local members and officers of the auxiliary organizations gave reports and testimonies at the morning meeting also.

In attendance were Mission President A. William Lund; President Ervin R. Stoker, Elders John L. Linton, Roy Allen,

Ellis J. Yardley, R. Eldon Crowther, Ernest P. Leishman, Willis R. Dunkley, Leo V. Toombs, Fredrick W. Rallison and Harold A. Thorne of the Hull District; President J. Willard Harmond, Elders Melvin E. Dunkley and Willis E. Bean of the Leeds District; and Elders Elbert C. Kirkham and Virgil E. White of the Sheffield District.

At the afternoon service the work of the past six months was discussed, the General, Mission and District authorities sustained, and reports of the Branch Presidents given.

At the evening meeting the hall was filled to capacity. Inspiring "Mormon" hymns were sung, after which several missionaries spoke of the "Restoration of the Priesthood" and "One hundred years of Authoritative Priesthood in this latter-day Church." Each bore fervent testimony to the truth of "Mormonism," so-called. A missionary quartet and a pianoforte solo by a local member were interjected at this point, following which President Lund spoke. His message dealt—as his previous ones during the day—with the scientific and scriptural soundness of "Mormonism," the need and benefits of God's holy Priesthood, and the obligation of all men to conform their lives to the standard of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Musical selections were enjoyed. Spiritual peace and harmony filled the hearts of all those who listened to the message given. Hearts were stirred; the intellects of "first-attenders" were quickened; the Gospel plan in its beauty and purity was presented to all.

A report of the conference is to be published in the *Grimsby News*.

ERVIN R. STOKER, District President

"STAR" VOLUMES FOR SALE

COMPLETE VOLUMES of the *Millennial Star* from 1882 to 1928 may now be purchased at a low price from the European Mission Office, 295 Edge Lane, Liverpool, England. These volumes contain a vast amount of valuable historical and doctrinal material, and would form a desirable addition to any Latter-day Saint library. Each volume is complete in itself so that one or more may be ordered as desired. A very low price has been secured: $1.50 (six shillings) per volume, bound in stout cloth or buckram, post paid. If half leather binding is desired, $1 (four shillings) more must be added. The *Millennial Star*, the oldest magazine now published by the Church, has always been sought after by students of "Mormonism," and the value of the volumes is steadily increasing. Orders should specify if volumes of certain years are desired, otherwise the most available volumes will be forwarded. Prompt orders are necessary to secure special volumes, as the supply of some of them is limited.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FIELD

Did Jesus ever perform baptisms?

This question is probably occasioned by the statements made in the Gospel according to John. In the 3rd chapter, verse 22, it is recorded that: "After these things came Jesus and his disciples into Judea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized;" and in verse 26: "They came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou bearest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him." The impression is left that Jesus, Himself, on that occasion performed baptisms. In the next chapter, verses 1 to 3, however, the explicit statement is made that Jesus did not, Himself, perform baptisms: "When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) He left Judea, and departed again into Galilee."

There is no recorded evidence that Jesus actually performed baptisms. He gave authority to His disciples to baptize, and no doubt often directed the ordinance. As the leader of the group, the responsibility for the acts of His followers was placed upon Him, and in that sense did He baptize. Nevertheless, all the acts of Jesus are not recorded. He certainly had the right to perform baptisms if He so desired.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Transfer and Departure: Elder Seth T. Shaw—Newcastle District—was transferred to the Southern States Mission, and sailed for his new field of labour from Southampton on January 27th aboard the *George Washington*.

Swedish Mission Arrivals: The following missionaries arrived at Stockholm, Sweden, on February 20th, by way of Göteborg, to labour in the Swedish Mission: Kenneth F. Fredrickson, Murray, Utah; Arthur E. Lind, Murray, Utah.

Releases and Departures: The following missionaries have been honourably released and have sailed for their homes in America: Zenas W. Bennett—Liverpool and London Districts—released on February 12th, and Amos B. Robinson—London, Leeds and Newcastle Districts—released on January 29th, sailed from Cherbourg aboard the *George Washington* on March 2nd; Merlan G. Wood—Sheffield District—released on February 12th, sailed from Southampton aboard the *George Washington* on February 12th; Melvin L. Condie—Manchester and Scottish Districts—released December 20th, 1928, Vilace L. Radmall—Nottingham and London Districts—

released on December 20th, 1928, Elmer W. Marriott—Norwich and Nottingham Districts—released January 22nd, and Charles E. Alsop—Norwich and Newcastle Districts—released on February 22nd, sailed from Cherbourg aboard the *Leviathan* on March 9th.

Branch Conferences: *Norwich*—Of the Ipswich Branch, Norwich District, was held on Sunday, February 17th. A good spirit was manifest at each service. The majority in attendance were non-members of the Church. President Alden J. Kirkham, Elders Paul C. Layton and Clyde L. Thomas were the speakers.

Of the Norwich Branch, Norwich District, convened on Sunday, February 24th. "One Hundred Years of Authoritative Priesthood" was the theme developed throughout the services. Brief reports were given by the auxiliary officers.

Of the Wolverhampton Branch, Birmingham District, held on Sunday, March 3rd. The theme of the day: "Progression Through Love," was ably treated by Sunday School members. President Heber J. Matkin and Elders Edward L. Blacker, E. Anthon Clayson and J. Clyde Samsion were in attendance.

Doings in the Districts: *Birmingham*—At a baptismal service held at the Handsworth Chapel, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 2nd, one person was baptized by Elder Earl D. Hone and confirmed by Elder Philip D. Quayle.

A successful social was given Saturday evening, March 2nd, at Handsworth, by the Bee-Hive girls in honour of the Kidderminster Bee-Hive swarm which was recently organized. Lunches were sold to obtain funds with which to promote Bee-Hive work.

A union meeting of branch officers and members was held at the Handsworth Chapel on March 2nd. Much progress was reported in branch work during the past month.

Leeds—A novelty program was given under the direction of the Leeds District Mutual Improvement Associations, at the Bradford Hall, on Saturday, February 23rd. Each organization represented participated, and a rousing good time for all resulted.

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